

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141225
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:KMCCORMICK:DH

APPROVED BY IO:RBARRY

AF/S:LMACFARLANE

AF/S:DKEOGH

IO/UNP:TNILES

AF:RMOOSE

S/S -O:SRPVALERGA

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O 031820Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141225

EXDIS, GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA, SF

SUBJECT: REPORT OF "SECRET" UN FILM ON NAMIBIA

I. DURING RECENT VISIT BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO
LESOTHO, A SENIOR UNDP REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED
IN PRESENCE OF US AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO WHAT HE
CALLED "THE SECRET FILM THE UN INFORMATION OFFICE
(SIC) IS PRODUCING IN NAMIBIA." STARTLED BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A FILM
AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SAG AUTHORITIES WOULD
EXTEND COOPERATION FOR IT. UNDP OFFICIAL REPLIED
THAT UN PERSONNEL PRODUCING FILM WERE IN NAMIBIA
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PAGE 02 STATE 141225

SECRETLY ON FALSE OR PRIVATE PASSPORTS, POSING AS
TOURISTS, AND THAT THE ENTIRE EXERCISE WOULD BE
CARRIED OUT "WITHOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES
KNOWING A THING ABOUT IT." WESTERN OFFICIALS RETORTED
THAT SAG WOULD CERTAINLY KNOW ABOUT IT WHEN THE FILM
WAS SCREENED, AND THAT THIS "OPERATION," AS IT WAS
DESCRIBED, WAS A MORE SERIOUS MATTER THAN THE OFFICIAL

APPEARED TO FIND IT AS IT COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE
CONFIDENCE DURING A TIME OF SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON
NAMIBIA.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING WHETHER THESE

REMARKS ARE BASED IN FACT, WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED
ABOUT A REPORT THAT UN OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN WHAT
APPEARS TO BE AN IMPROPER USE OF POSITION AND FUNDS.
IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PRESERVATION OF TRUST BETWEEN
SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UN WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF
CONTACT GROUP'S NAMIBIA PROPOSAL, DEPT. BELIEVES
ACTIVITY OF THIS SORT IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE.

3. MISSION SHOULD SEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS
ANY BASIS FOR THIS REPORT. IF MISSION DETERMINES THAT
THERE MAY BE FACTUAL BASIS FOR REPORT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STEPS WE COULD TAKE TO HALT
THIS PROJECT. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS PROJECT IS
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY UN REPRESENTATIVES IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR AUTHORIZATION OF UN
HEADQUARTERS OR A SPECIALIZED AGENCY? CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 141225
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:STESCUDERO
APPROVED BY:IO:TBROWN
S/S:MVKENNEDY

-----008629 210936Z /17

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INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU 0885

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141225

EXDIS

FOL STATE 141225 SENT ACTION USUN INFO GABORONE CAPE TOWN
JUNE 3, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141225

EXDIS, GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA, SF

SUBJECT: REPORT OF "SECRET" UN FILM ON NAMIBIA

I. DURING RECENT VISIT BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO LESOTHO, A SENIOR UNDP REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED IN PRESENCE OF US AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO WHAT HE CALLED "THE SECRET FILM THE UN INFORMATION OFFICE (SIC) IS PRODUCING IN NAMIBIA." STARTLED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A FILM AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SAG AUTHORITIES WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 141225

EXTEND COOPERATION FOR IT. UNDP OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT UN PERSONNEL PRODUCING FILM WERE IN NAMIBIA SECRETLY ON FALSE OR PRIVATE PASSPORTS, POSING AS TOURISTS, AND THAT THE ENTIRE EXERCISE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT "WITHOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES KNOWING A THING ABOUT IT." WESTERN OFFICIALS RETORTED THAT SAG WOULD CERTAINLY KNOW ABOUT IT WHEN THE FILM WAS SCREENED, AND THAT THIS "OPERATION," AS IT WAS DESCRIBED, WAS A MORE SERIOUS MATTER THAN THE OFFICIAL APPEARED TO FIND IT AS IT COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE DURING A TIME OF SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON NAMIBIA.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO WAY OF CONFIRMING WHETHER THESE

REMARKS ARE BASED IN FACT, WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT A REPORT THAT UN OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN IMPROPER USE OF POSITION AND FUNDS. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PRESERVATION OF TRUST BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UN WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF CONTACT GROUP'S NAMIBIA PROPOSAL, DEPT. BELIEVES ACTIVITY OF THIS SORT IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE.

3. MISSION SHOULD SEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR THIS REPORT. IF MISSION DETERMINES THAT THERE MAY BE FACTUAL BASIS FOR REPORT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STEPS WE COULD TAKE TO HALT THIS PROJECT. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS PROJECT IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY UN REPRESENTATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR AUTHORIZATION OF UN HEADQUARTERS OR A SPECIALIZED AGENCY? CHRISTOPHER

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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: REPORT OF \"SECRET\" UN FILM ON NAMIBIA I. DURING RECENT VISIT BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO LESOTHO, A SENIOR UNDP REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED
TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA, SF
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